

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 730

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Bill May upon his receipt of the Sevier Award.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of the members of this General Assembly to acknowledge and applaud those steadfast stewards who are wholly devoted to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Bill May, executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, who is the most recent recipient of the Sevier Award; he will be honored during the 18th Annual Sevier Award ceremony on April 2, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Sevier Award recognizes and honors a deserving person who demonstrates care for the community and its citizens; in keeping with the spirit of giving in East Tennessee, the Sevier Award was created to encourage volunteerism, philanthropy, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. May began his career as a high school English teacher, having completed an undergraduate degree at Tulane University and a graduate degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he focused his studies on English and gifted education; Bill May moved to Sevier County in 1980, inspired by his love of nature and outdoor activities, and it was there he fulfilled his lifelong desire to design and build his own house, which became the first passive solar house in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, his newfound interest in art and design, cultivated by the construction of his own home, led Bill May to seek further education in the arts, and he began an apprenticeship at a stained glass studio and took classes at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Bill May established his own art glass studio and for over twenty years designed, fabricated, and installed art glass for churches, public spaces, commercial

buildings, and residences throughout the country; he maintained his connection to Arrowmont and served as an instructor there for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. May has long been a respected leader in his profession; he was named executive director of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in June of 2011 and has served as a member of the Board of Governors and a juror for exhibitions over the course of his employment with the school; additionally, he makes presentations around the country on art education, arts and community, and the creative process; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Arrowmont's executive director, Bill May has been successful in building the school into a strong institution; although faced with many challenges, he and his team were able to double the annual operating revenue over the past ten years and maintain balanced operating budgets since 2010. The school currently operates with no debt; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, he received the 2014 Award for Service to Appalachia, presented by Carson-Newman University in recognition of his contributions to the appreciation and preservation of Appalachian arts and culture; in 2015, Governor Bill Haslam presented Mr. May with the Governor's Award for Arts Leadership; and

WHEREAS, devoted to serving his community in various capacities, Bill May has served on committees for Parks as Classrooms, Boy Scout Troop 111, and community visioning conferences, and he currently serves on the board of the Gatlinburg Gateway Foundation, Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, and Gatlinburg Visitor and Convention Bureau; he also continuously supports Arrowmont's fundraising for United Way through the Souper Bowl fundraiser; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Bill May has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Anne; and

WHEREAS, Mr. May has served Sevier County well for nearly four decades, and it is most fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRENCE, that we congratulate Bill May upon his receipt of the Sevier Award, commend his forty years of service to Sevier County and its citizens, and extend our best wishes for his continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.